

Spring 2006

From the Dean

Lauren K. Robel

Indiana University Maurer School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Robel, Lauren K., "From the Dean" (2006). *Lauren Robel (2002 Acting; 2003-2011)*. 39.
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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington



This *Bill of Particulars* provides a window to some of the exciting changes at Indiana Law since the adoption of our Strategic Plan. The plan calls for Indiana Law to be a “highly visible and influential law school whose faculty, students, and graduates advance knowledge, justice, and the public good in the state, in the nation, and around the world.” We chose three strategies for achieving that vision: enhancing our community of engaged, influential scholars; communicating our ideas more effectively to influence debate in the academy, the profession, and the wider world; and educating our students for the demands of leadership in a changing profession.

This issue highlights several new initiatives that implement our strategic vision. We recognize that one of our advantages is our location on Indiana University’s Bloomington campus. The new Entrepreneurship Law Clinic (“Open for Business,” p. 3) takes advantage of the resources available to us to provide a truly interdisciplinary experience for our students. The clinic is taught by our faculty and located in the Entrepreneurship Center at the Kelley School of Business. It is the capstone experience for our JD/MBA program and makes possible the new three-year JD/MBA, which will begin this fall. The students in the program are challenged and energized, and we have watched them make a difference this year in the formation and success of a number of businesses with the potential for high returns to the state of Indiana.

An innovative Conservation Law Clinic also opened its doors this year. Again, this clinic recognizes our joint degree links to the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, which boasts the No. 1 program in environmental science in the nation.

William Weeks directs the Conservation Law Center, which is running the clinic. Bill has represented clients in natural resource conservation matters in private practice as a member of the bar in Indiana and the District of Columbia. He also worked for the conservation of biodiversity as an officer (vice president, chief operating officer, and executive vice president) of the Nature Conservancy. He is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Law (1979, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif) and author of *Beyond the Ark* (Island Press, 1996). The clinic students are working on issues of invasive species in the Great Lakes, among other client matters, and their energy and dedication are truly amazing.

One of the Strategic Plan’s objectives is to integrate a global perspective into the intellectual life of the Law School. This issue highlights our new Center on Constitutional Democracy in Plural Societies (“The Power of Thinking Things Through,” p. 10). No greater challenge or threat exists today than assuring ethnic and religious minorities in emerging democracies engage in and are committed to the constitutional process. Professors David and Susan Williams have identified this charge and direct this center, which is working now in four countries. I accompanied them to Liberia this December, where we met with Ellen Johnsen Sirleaf, the new president. We are committed to working with the University of Liberia Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law and President Johnsen Sirleaf’s government to solidify the rule of law in that country. Several of our students will work in Liberia this summer; others will visit Thailand to collaborate with the Burma democracy movement.

The plan also calls us to offer our students a continuously updated curriculum. I am delighted to report that with the help of our Intellectual Property Advisory Board, Indiana Law has developed a truly outstanding IP curriculum and faculty. And to assure that we have students to take advantage of the curriculum, our admissions staff recruited more than 40 students into this year’s class with degrees in science and engineering. Thus, when the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic needed students with advanced degrees to work on a patent-mapping project involving stem-cell research, we were able to send Megha Patel and Charles Logsdon, both of whom have PhDs in molecular biology. The students will help to create a visual map of relevant patents surrounding various types of stem cells, which will be used by the Indiana University School of Medicine.

I will continue to report on Indiana Law’s progress in moving toward our goals. Thank you to all of our alumni who have given so generously of their time to help make Indiana Law a better place.

— Lauren K. Robel, JD’83
Dean and Val Nolan Professor of Law